

Charleston County

- For more information about all County Boards and Commissions, [click here](#).
- To view agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes from previous meetings, [click here](#). Agendas are available at least 24 hours prior to meetings.
- The following rules for public input only address County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Authority

County Council makes policy decisions for Charleston County, as established in state law. The primary areas for which Council is required to set policy are:

- Establishing the community vision;
- Stating the organizational mission;
- Defining any area of the County Administrator's authority not specifically addressed by state law; and
- Organizing the manner by which Council business is conducted

County Council serves as a link between County government and the citizens, municipalities and agencies located within its boundaries, and also represents the area's concerns and interests when dealing with other local, state, federal or international governments. Council is responsible for approving an annual budget to fund County operations, including the determination of any necessary taxes or fees.

Meetings

County Council generally meets on Tuesdays and holds committee meetings on Thursdays; the Council calendar can be viewed [here](#). The meetings of Council and committees of Council are also [livestreamed on YouTube](#).

Public Hearings?

If there are actions that require a public hearing, they are usually taken up at the beginning of the agenda, prior to the general public comment period.

Public Notice: Newspaper advertisement and signage (when applicable) at least 15 days prior; 30 days prior for comprehensive plan amendments and development agreements.

Public Comment period?

Yes. This period is for open [public comment](#), not for public hearing items. County Council allows 30 minutes for this period, and it is limited to the first 15 speakers, who each have a maximum of two minutes. Additionally, written public comments can be sent to public-comments@charlestoncounty.org by noon on the day of the Council meeting.

How to sign up to speak:

Citizens may sign-up to speak in person at the Council meeting 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS, CHARLESTON COUNTY ZONING & PLANNING

Applies to All

Public Hearings?

Yes. All regular meetings of the below public Planning & Zoning boards/commissions are public hearings. They are all held in Council Chambers at the Lonnie Hamilton PSB, 4045 Bridgeview Drive, North Charleston.

Public Notice

Newspaper advertisement, email/mail notifications, and signage, as required, at least 15 days prior to the public meeting.

Public Comment period?

The Chair of each board/commission will communicate whether or not public comment will be allowed for special meetings or special agenda items that do not require a public hearing.

How to sign up to speak:

To speak in person, you do not have to sign up in advance. There is no virtual option to participate. Written public comments or voicemails can be left at the Zoning & Planning [Engage Public Comment Portal](#).

All planning & zoning board/commission meetings are [livestreamed on YouTube](#).

Board of Zoning Appeals

Authority

The Charleston County Board of Zoning Appeals consists of nine members appointed by Council. This Board hears and decides appeals where it is alleged there is error in order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of the County's zoning ordinance. The Board hears and decides appeals for variance from the requirements of the zoning ordinance when strict application of the ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship. The Board also makes decisions regarding the permitting of uses by special exception subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the County's Zoning Ordinance.

Meetings

Unless otherwise advertised, the County Board of Zoning Appeals meets at 5:00 p.m. the 1st Monday of every month (unless a County holiday conflicts).

Public Input Deadline

Written public comments or voicemails left at the Zoning & Planning [Engage Public Comment Portal](#) by 12:00pm the Friday before the public meeting will be included in the meeting materials.

Historic Preservation Commission

Authority

The Charleston County Historic Preservation Commission consists of nine members appointed by County Council. The Commission has final decision-making authority on Certificates of Historic Appropriateness. In matters for which Commission is the authority, Commission's is the sole meeting required for resolution. The Historic Preservation Commission acts in a review and recommending

capacity to County Council for Designations of Historic Property and may also conduct first review and evaluation of all proposed nominations for the National Register of Historic Properties. For these matters, the Commission meeting and subsequent County Council meetings are necessary for Council's resolution.

Meetings

Unless otherwise advertised, the County Historic Preservation Commission meets at 2:00 p.m. the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Public Input Deadline

Written public comments or voicemails received on the Zoning & Planning [Engage Public Comment Portal](#) by 5:00pm the Friday before the public meeting will be included in the meeting materials.

Planning Commission

Authority

The Charleston County Planning Commission consists of nine members appointed by County Council. This Commission hears and makes recommendations to Council on Comprehensive Plan updates, 5 and 10-year reviews, and amendments; Zoning and Land Development Regulations text amendments; Zoning Map amendments (Rezoning); and Planned Development (PD) Development Plans and PD Zoning Map amendments. The Commission has final decision-making authority on road name changes; preliminary subdivision plats; public project review; and appeals of subdivision-related administrative decisions.

Meetings

Unless otherwise advertised, the County Planning Commission meets at 2:00 p.m. the 2nd Monday of every month.

Public Input Deadline

Written public comments or voicemails received on the Zoning & Planning [Engage Public Comment Portal](#) by 5:00pm the Monday before the public meeting will be included in the meeting materials.